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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,625	01/17/2001	Don F. Kesterson	067647.0117	8122

7590 03/17/2005

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EXAMINER

SINGH, RAMNANDAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,625

Applicant(s)

KESTERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Ramnandan Singh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-19, 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goodman [US 20030147513 A1].

Regarding claim 1, Goodman teaches a communication coupling (310) shown in Fig. 3, comprising:

a first communication port operable to communicate with a network component (105), the first communication port (312) having first and second paths of communication [Figs. 1, 3]; and

a switch (890) coupled with the first communication port , the switch having a first position in which the first communication port is operable to receive a first communication signal from the network component using the first path of communication and is operable to transmit a second communication signal to the network component using the second path of communication , and a second position in which the first communication port is operable to receive the first communication signal

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from the network component using the second communication path and is operable to transmit the second communication signal to the network component using the first communication path [Figs. 1, 3, 7, 8; Para: 0016-0019; 0046; 0065; claim 2].

Regarding claim 10, Goodman teaches a communication coupling (310) shown in Fig. 3, comprising:

- a first communication port (312) having first and second paths of communication with a network component (105), and operable to receive a first communication signal from the network component using the first path of communication [Figs. 1, 3];

- a second communication port (316) operable to transmit the first communication signal to a communication system (i.e. communication hub (340));

- a third communication port (318) operable to receive a second communication signal from the communication system; and

- the first communication port further operable to transmit the second communication signal to the network component using the second path of communication [Figs. 1, 3, 7; Para: 0016-0019].

Regarding claim 16, Goodman teaches a method for distributing first and second communication signals shown in Figs. 1, 3, comprising:

- receiving a first communication signal at a communication coupling (310) using a first path of communication between the communication coupling and a network component (105);

transmitting the first communication signal from the communication coupling to a communication system (i.e. communication hub (340));

receiving the second communication signal at the communication coupling from the communication system; and

transmitting the second communication signal to the network component (105) using a second path of communication between the communication coupling and the network component [Figs. 1, 3; Para: 0016-0021; 0039-0040; 0042; 0046-0050].

Claim 23 is essentially similar to claim 16 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 2, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling comprising a second communication port (316) operable to communicate with a communication system (i.e. communication hub (340)) , the second communication port further operable to transmit the second communication signal to the first communication port (312) [Figs. 3, 7; Para: 0018]

Regarding claim 3, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling comprising a third communication port (318) operable to transmit the first communication signal to the communication system (340) [Figs. 3, 7; Para: 0019].

Claim 15 is essentially similar to claim 3 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 4, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling, wherein the second communication signal includes a first frequency band and a second frequency band [Para: 0020-0021, and further comprising a filter (170) coupled with the first communication port (312) and operable to separate the first frequency band from the second frequency band [Figs. 3, 4; Para: 0040; 0056].

Claims 11, 17, 24 are essentially similar to claim 4 and are rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 5, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling comprising third and fourth communication paths coupling the communication coupling (310) with a communication system (340), the third communication path transmitting the first frequency band to the communication system and the second communication path transmitting the first and second frequency bands to the communication system [Figs. 1, 3-7, 9; Para: 0042; 0059].

Claims 13, 19, 25 are essentially similar to claim 5 and are rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 6, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling, wherein the third communication path includes a first pair of conductors, and the fourth communication path includes a second pair of conductors [Figs. 1, 4, 5; Para: 0042; 0056; 0059].

Claim 12 is essentially similar to claim 6 except for a switch. Goodman teaches using a switch (890) to change a path of communication [Para: 0065; claim 2].

Claim 18 is essentially similar to claim 12 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 7, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling, wherein the first communication port (326) comprises an RJ-11 coupling and the first path of communication comprises an inner pair of conductors [Fig. 3; Para: 0056].

Regarding claim 8, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling, wherein the first communication signal includes a digital subscriber line (DSL) signal (D) and a first analog telephone signal (i.e. voice (V)), and the second communication signal includes a second analog telephone signal (E) [Figs. 1-6; Para: 0041-0043; 0045; 0058-0061; 0068; 0075].

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Claim 14 is essentially similar to claim 8 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 9, Goodman further teaches the communication coupling, wherein the third communication port [(718) or (318)] includes an RJ-45 [Figs. 3, 7; Para: 0065].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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4. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman [US 20030147513 A1] in view of Price et al [US 6,222,910 B1].

Regarding claim 20, Goodman teaches a method for distributing first and second communication signals shown in Figs. 1, 3, comprising:

receiving a first communication signal at a communication coupling (310) using a first path of communication between the communication coupling and a network component (105);

transmitting the first communication signal from the communication coupling to a communication system (i.e. communication hub (340));

receiving the second communication signal at the communication coupling from the communication system; and

transmitting the second communication signal to the network component (105) using a second path of communication between the communication coupling and the network component [Figs. 1, 3; Para: 0016-0021; 0039-0040; 0042; 0046-0050].

Goodman does not teach expressly a computer-readable medium having executable instructions to execute the method. However, this method of using a computer-readable medium to execute a method is well-known in the art.

Price et al teach illustrating a method for a telephone interface using a computer-readable medium comprising RAM, ROM, EEPROM, CD-ROM or other storage devices

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to store the desired executable instructions which can be accessed by a computer to execute the instructions [col. 7, lines 10-49; col. 12, line 57 to col. 13, line 5; col. 19, line 28 to col. 20, line 32].

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the computer-readable medium of Price et al with Goodman in order to automate the method of using the communication coupling and speed up the home networking system.

Regarding claim 21, the combination of Goodman and Price et al further teaches the computer readable medium, wherein the first communication signal includes a first frequency band and a second frequency band [Goodman; Para: 0020-0021, and wherein the logic is operable to separate the first frequency band from the second frequency band [Goodman: Figs. 3, 4; Para: 0040; 0056].

Regarding claim 22, the combination of Goodman and Price et al further teaches the computer readable medium, wherein the logic is further operable to communicate the first frequency band with the communication system using a third communication path, and communicate the first and second frequency bands with the communication system using a fourth communication path [Goodman; Figs. 1, 3-7, 9; Para: 0042; 0059].

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) Izumai et al [US 6,728,534 B1] teach a radio communication apparatus (101) having combine4d functions as a terminal adapter capable of switching the data transmission path in various ways according to the situation [Figs. 1-3; col. 6, line 60 to col. 7, line 7; Abstract];

(ii) Pounds et al [US 6,400,711 B1] teach methods for multiple voice and data modes using a communication system (50) [Figs. 1-2; Abstract]; and

(iii) Barzegar et al [US 6,363,079 B1] teach using a multifunction interface facility for connecting various service providers using cross-connect switch [Fig. 4A; Abstract].


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose telephone number is (703)308-6270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Sinh can be reached on (703)-305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramnandan Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2644



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER